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(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet this need of the Secretariat clerks?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A separate tiffin-room has been provided for the Secretariat staff.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" What are the dimensions of the room and how many people are expected to utilize it?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I shall ask for the information."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" When was this provided?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Recently."

Tours.

Tours made by the hon. Members and Ministers from 1st April 1922 to 30th May 1925.

* 296 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement showing the tours made by the several hon. Members of the Cabinet of His Excellency the Governor (including the hon. the Ministers) for opening colleges and other institutions and bridges and other works from 1st April 1922 to 30th May 1925; and

(*b*) to state—

(i) the cost of each of those institutions and works,

(ii) the cost of each of the tours to Government, and

(iii) why the notion that presence of the heads of Government departments is required at such opening ceremonies is encouraged by the Government?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by calling for the information referred to in the hon. Member's question. The matter is within the discretion of the Member or Minister concerned.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether it would be open to the Government to say that an answer to a particular question will not serve any purpose? Is it not left to the hon. Member who puts the question to see whether it would serve any purpose or not?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I suppose the question is addressed to me. When Government say that no useful purpose will be served by calling for that information they do not mean that the hon. Member is not justified in putting that question, but that they are not justified in calling for the information; it may be that the information is somewhat different from or involves a very much larger order upon the Government than that contemplated by the hon. Member. I do not think that any want of respect is shown by the Government to the Council in returning that answer."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" When it is for me to see what purpose it will serve, how can Government anticipate whether it will serve any purpose or not? It may be that I would be serving the House by asking for such information."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think that Government mean to show any disrespect to the hon. Member by returning that answer. But if the hon. Member wants to raise any other question he may do so after question time on some other day."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, it is said that the matter is within the discretion of the Member or the Minister concerned. I want to know, Sir, whether these Members do not consider themselves responsible to this House and to the public ? "

Depressed Classes.

Expenditure on certain tenements meant for certain Adi-Dravidas in the city.

* 297 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the orders issued by the Government on the explanation of the officer responsible for the irregular and excessive expenditure on the tenements meant for the use of the Adi-Dravidas whose houses were burnt in the disturbances in the mill area in Madras in 1921 ?

A.—The Government accepted responsibility for the experiment and agreed with the Public Accounts Committee that, as the buildings were sold, no further action was needed.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know how the fact that the buildings have been sold exonerate the officer's respons-
11-45 a.m. ibility for this irregular and excessive expenditure and I want to know why the Government say that 'no further action is necessary '. "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As the buildings have already been sold and the Government suffered no loss, no further action is necessary."

Allotment of funds for sinking and deepening wells.

* 298 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the amount of money the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, is going to allot for depressed classes for sinking and deepening wells in municipal and non-municipal areas separately for each district for the current year ?

A.—No funds have been allotted for the construction of wells in municipal areas. A statement [a] showing the distribution of funds for the sinking of wells, construction of pathways, provision of burial-grounds, etc., in non-municipal areas in the districts is laid on the table. In Madura and Coimbatore the amounts will be utilized only for the construction of wells ; but in other districts the amounts allotted will be utilized towards the provision of pathways, burial-grounds, etc., in addition. It is not possible to say how much will be spent on wells alone.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" In the latter part of the answer it is stated that 'in Coimbatore and Madura the amounts will be utilized only for the construction of wells '. In the recently issued weekly report in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, we find that Madagasira is always suffering for want of drinking

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 544 infra.